



**VA**  
HEALTH CARE  
Defining  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century

# Veteran Connection

A Portland VA Medical Center Newsletter

Keeping the



Advancing Excellence



## Portland VA Medical Center

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Produced by the PVAMC  
Public Affairs Office

### QUESTIONS / COMMENTS ??

Please email us at...

VHAPOR-PublicAffairs@med.va.gov

or call 503-402-2975

### Inside this issue:

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### Calendar

- ♦ Sept. 19, 1:00-1:30 p.m.  
PVAMC Fisher House  
Ground Breaking
- ♦ Sept. 23, 9:30 -11:00 a.m.  
PVAMC Town Hall
- ♦ Sept. 26, 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
PVAMC Lincoln City Clinic  
Open House event; 4422 NE  
Devils Lake Blvd, Suite 2,  
Lincoln City, OR 97367
- ♦ Sept. 30, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
PVAMC Town Hall

For all the [PVAMC Events and Classes](#)—got to the PVAMC Web page...

<http://www.portland.va.gov/calendar.asp>

## Welcome from the Director



Joanne M. Krumberger,  
Director, Portland VA  
Medical Center

Hello:

I am very delighted to share with you some wonderful things going on at Portland VA Medical Center (PVAMC) that are improving the care we provide to our Veterans every day.

First — I'd like to thank our Veterans, AMVETS Post 1776 from Independence, Oregon, Austin Warner from the Eastern Cherokee and Manahoac Tribe, guests including Congressman Kurt Schrader, ODVA Director Cameron Smith, and PVAMC staff for being a part of the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Salem CBOC on Sept. 5th. It was a great event highlighting and our partners and the quality facilities and people we have in the VA. More information is in an article in this newsletter.

Our [Fisher House ground breaking ceremony](#) is just next week—Sept. 19 from 1:00-1:30 p.m. near the Vancouver Campus Community Living Center (CLC). We and our partners at the Fisher House Foundation would love to have you join us. This will be a valued resource to help many Veterans and their families for years to come.

As many of you may be aware, we had a VSO Town Hall on June 16. We are looking forward to our next Town Hall scheduled for

Sept. 23 at 9:30 a.m. and on Sept. 30 at 6:30 p.m. — these will be open to ALL Veterans. I will share some brief remarks, but the intent is to hear from our Veterans and let them share what is on their minds so we can continue to work together to address concerns and develop solutions.

On Aug. 13 we held our 1st PVAMC VSO Committee meeting. I invited about 15 representatives from various VSOs to start a regular face-to-face dialog on Veteran issues or concerns they believe need to be addressed. The intent is to identify these issues, assign priorities and responsibility, develop action plans, track progress, and follow through on the implementation. One of our first priorities is Veteran transportation. We are working now to identify VSO partners to help lead this effort hand-in-hand with our PVAMC staff as part of a work group. If you are interested in working with this team, please let me or my [Public Affairs Officer](#) know.

I am committed to being pro-active in our communication with our Veterans and transparent in the way we provide their care.

Attached to this newsletter you will find the latest update on PVAMC wait times and other information we provided to our congressional partners several days ago. I think you will be please in the progress we are making

Thank you again for your service and continued support in helping us provide the best care possible to our Veterans.

*Joanne M. Krumberger*

## PVAMC Town Hall

**When:** 23 Sept. 2014 at 9:30—11:00 a.m. & 30 Sept. 2014 at 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Where:** PVAMC main campus auditorium at 3710 SW U.S. Veterans Hospital Rd. Portland

**Who:** ALL Veterans & family members are invited.

**Why:** To Share information, answer questions and address concerns.

**Note:** VBA will have their town hall at 1:30 p.m.

## New Salem CBOC holds open house and grand opening Sept. 5



About 150 people attended a formal ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on September 5 formally commemorating the opening of the new Portland VA Medical Center Community Based Outpatient Center (CBOC) located in Salem. Remarks were shared by PVAMC Director Joanne Krumberger, VISN 20 Director Larry Carroll, ODVA Director Cameron Smith, as well as U.S. Congressman Kurt Schrader. In addition, Veteran Austin Warner from the Eastern Cherokee and Manahoac Tribe asked for a blessing for the new facility (photo right).

"The Portland VA started providing care to Veterans in Salem in 1997," said Krumberger. "We had two nurse practitioners two days per week providing mental health services. Today we have 55 authorized employees providing about 20 services for nearly 9,000 Veterans in the area. Many things are going in the right direction and we are dedicated to continue to improve."

The facility opened its new doors for services on June 25, 2014, which provides 26,000 square feet of space compared to the 10,000 square feet at the previous facility. New or expanded services at this facility include audiology and physical therapy, eye care is expanded, podiatry and dermatology are expanded, there is an increased clinical pharmacy presence, including a resident pharmacist; Telehealth is expanded, video conferencing or video appointments for Veterans including compensation and pension, rural mental



health, cardiology, MOVE program, PTSD counseling, speech pathology, and nutrition.

For more information about the new Salem CBOC, please visit the PVAMC Web Site at <http://www.portland.va.gov/locations/salem.asp>.

## Invite to PVAMC Fisher House Ground Breaking Ceremony

**When:** [19 Sept. 2014 at 1:00–1:30 p.m.](#)

**Where:** PVAMC Vancouver Campus, near the Community Living Center

**Who:** Public is invited

The Fisher House Program provides no-cost temporary accommodations to America's

military Veterans and active duty service members' families and caregivers while Veterans are getting treatment.

PVAMC was selected to participate in the program and build a home on the Vancouver PVAMC campus to support Portland and Vancouver facilities. A shuttle service will provide transportation between the two locations. The PVAMC house is to be



designed for 16 families and have common kitchens and living rooms but will have private bedrooms and bathrooms. Construction is anticipated to take 10 to 12 months to complete.

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